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1. Centrist Democratic International

(Special consultative status granted in 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a

statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

2. Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Federation is a nationwide non-profit non-governmental organisation founded in 1989 in order to concur the different Spanish organisations identified with the project of promoting common objectives concerned with the defense and promotion of human rights in its broadest sense. With this aim, the Federation has grown in terms of member organisation, obtaining the Special Consultative Status with

the United Nations Economic and Social Council in November of 1996 and extending its projection and work in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Commission of Human Rights

The Federation, as a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, has participated in this Commission since 1997. It has actively participated in all the period sessions of the Commission of Human Rights with oral and written statements on different relevant issues (Children's Rights, the International Criminal Court, Colombia, Western Sahara, the question of Palestine, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, the right of development, State terrorism, etc.); has sponsored meetings with other organisations; has attended meetings of special interest; has created and bound together its work relationships with a great number of organisations in the international scope.

Other Meetings and Seminars

Throughout these 3 years, the Federation has actively participated in different meetings organised by the United Nations, such as:

- Special Session of the UN General Assembly, Beijing + 5: Women in the year 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st Century, held in New York between June 5th and 9th 2000.
- The International Meetings organised by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, such as the one held in Madrid between June 17th and 19th 2001. The Federation participated actively in the organisation of the meeting.
- The UN Special Session on children. Global Movement for Children, held in May 2000.
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg between August 26th and September 4th 2002.

III. MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings and Seminars

The Federation has organised different meetings, seminars and courses with the purpose of launching information and public-awareness campaigns, in the scope of UN's conferences and resolutions on different issues of special interest for the defense and promotion of human rights. In order to do so, the Federation has worked closely with the UN Information Centre for Spain, present in several events.

- July 2000. International Meeting **"Alternative Committee for Colombia Plan: Colombia and Europe give a joint response to Colombia Plan".**
- September 2000. Meeting on **Human Rights in Peru**, with the special participation of Michel Azcueta, Deputy Major of Lima.

- October 2000. Meeting on **Human Rights in Colombia**.
- October 2000. Symposium on "**Human Rights and International Responsibility**"
- April 2001. Presentation of the film on death penalty **El Apagón**, directed by José María Caro with the participation of recognised Spanish actors.
- October 2001. Meeting "**Reflections on the Peace Process in the Middle East after the Madrid Conference**".
- March 2002. Symposium on "**Spain's responsibility before the International Criminal Court**", organised in collaboration with the European NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Many outstanding jurists, such as Carlos Castresana, José Antonio Martín Pallín and Joaquín Canivell took part in the discussions.
- May 2003. To mark the illegal war against Iraq, the Federation organised in Spain a "**Court of Opinion on the War against Irak**" with the participation of prestigious experts of great relevance. The Court also had an ample participation of the Spanish Civil Society.
- Every year different activities have been organised to mark the commemoration of the **Human Rights Day** in cooperation with the United Nations and the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Spanish Ombudsman.

2. Human Rights Projects

Throughout the past 4 years, the Federation has strengthened its work in the implementation of human rights projects. The line of work that has been followed is the presentation of proposals to the Civil Service regarding the education in human rights, taking into consideration the importance of this issue for the promotion of human rights in the Spanish society.

The following are the projects carried out during these years:

- 2000/2001. Project financed by the Junta of Castilla - La Mancha Community for the creation of a virtual center on Human Rights, as an integrated communication and information system throughout the Internet, based on UN's ideas and guidelines for the education and stimulation of collective awareness in favour of new values, freedom and rights, deepening in the Culture of Democracy and the Global Principles demanded by the current situation.(www.fddhh.eurosur.org/centro)
- 2001/2002. Project financed by the Human Rights Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the diffusion of the objectives and works of the UN Human Rights Commission. The results can be viewed at www.fddhh.eurosur.org/comision
- 2002/2003. The Project **Analysis, Monitoring and Diffusion of the Cultural, Economic and Social Rights since the application of the Colombia Plan**, financed by the Municipality of Alcalá de Henares in the Community of Madrid. The results can be viewed at www.fddhh.eurosur.org/colombia
- 2003/2004. The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) financed a training course aimed at the training of trainers in education throughout the year 2004.

- *Violations of Human Rights*

Without wanting to get into a thorough listing of all actions undertaken, the Federation has reacted to specific violations on human rights and International Humanitarian Law around the world, based on different international means for the defense and promotion of human rights as well as UN resolutions. Special monitoring and emphasis have been placed on situations such as Western Sahara, Timor-Leste, Colombia, the question of Palestine, Central America, Mexico, Peru, and on other issues regarding impunity, terrorism, preventive war, the International Criminal Court as well as women, minorities and children rights.

4. Monitoring of UN Human Rights Conference

Assessing the importance of the Agreements of Vienna, the Federation established in 1996 an action plan of systematic activities in order to go deeply into aspects linked to human rights education through actions aimed towards the carrying out of training programmes.

5. Participation in International Missions

The Federation, represented by its Vice-President Emilio Gilolmo, participated in the electoral - civil mission in Peru that took place between February 5th and 14th 2000.

RELATIONSHIP WITH NGO IN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA

One of the Federation's permanent activities is its relationship with Latin American, Asian and African institutions whose representatives have visited Spain as part of their European visits, in order to take part in forums, promote funding proposals and seeking support for issues regarding the defense of human rights.

The Federation has actively participated in different international platforms for the defense and promotion of human rights with the purpose of strengthening common goals and relationships with other NGOs, specifically:

- European Network against Racism - Spanish Group (ENAR)
- European NGO Coordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine (ECCP)
- International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)
- Oficina Internacional de Derechos Humanos Acción Colombia (OIDHACO)

3. Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Center, KEGME, founded in October 1982 and is a non-governmental organization, based in Athens, Greece. KEGME is a Board Member of the European Network of Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Women's Studies (ENWS) under the auspices of the Council of Europe, a member of the Greek National Platform of NGOs for Development in the EU, and a member of the Mediterranean Women's Forum under the auspices of UNESCO.

AIMS: To study, analyze and improve the position of women in the family and in economic, social and public life; To increase awareness and stimulate action that will promote equality between women and men in all areas of life; To sensitize women about ecological problems and mobilize them to protect the environment and save the Mediterranean basin from pollution; To assist, women in preserving their cultural heritage and their women's values; To empower women through education in order to exercise their rights in all areas of life; To develop methods and take initiatives in conflict resolution and in the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean; To initiate activities for the promotion of democracy and human rights; and To support national, regional and international campaigns and programs about issues of major concern such as AIDS, drugs, alcoholism, violence, racism, xenophobia, youth criminality etc.

To achieve its objectives KEGME has developed various areas of responsibilities including: Feminist and action oriented research; Gender Studies Program; Organization of Seminars, Symposia; Workshops, Conferences, and Meetings on a wide number of issues related mainly to women and youth; Program of feminist alternatives for the promotion of peace and security; Activities relating to the protection of the environment; Development projects for women in developing countries; Training projects for the promotion of human rights with emphasis on women's rights; and a Documentation and Information Unit.

KEGME'S projects and activities for the period 1999-2002 have been funded by the European Union, UNESCO, UNFPA, the Council of Europe, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and Development, the Greek General Secretariat for Equality, Greek Banks and various European and Greek private enterprises and individuals.

ACTIVITIES

In June 1999, KEGME organized a Workshop under the title 'Women Voter's Priorities and Proposals ' in collaboration with the European Women's Lobby and the Greek General Secretariat for Equality, aiming in promoting women's equal opportunities in political life in the coming elections for Euro-Parliament.

In 1999 - 2000 KEGME implemented two major projects:

a) Development project 'Natural Resources Management by Women in Uganda' which was managed by rural women and aimed to create tree/crop nurseries and small scale productive units in six local Districts.

b) 'Making Young Voices Heard: Protecting and empowering girls victim of violence and sexual abuse'. The Project aimed to promote the rights of the girl child; Empower girls and victims of violence and sexual abuse; and Develop tools and measures for the early recognition of abuse.

In 2000-2001 KEGME implemented a 2-year major project 'Women's Dialogue for the Promotion of Stability' Human Rights and Sustainable Peace in South-East Europe' within the Royaumont Initiative of the EU. The projects' activities included a) sensitization campaigns, b) a Training Seminar on ' Gender Integration into Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Peace building' , c) one Peace Village that brought together 32 participants from all Balkan countries in an open dialogue to 'Build Bridges' of trust, understanding and confidence among women of different cultures, social, ethnic and religious

backgrounds and d) a Conference on ' Women Networking for Peace and Democracy' The main outcome of the project was the establishment of the 'Balkan Women's Network for Democratization and Conflict Prevention'.

In December 2001, as a follow-up, KEGME organized a Workshop, sponsored by UNESCO, during which the Network members drew up a 5-year Plan for Action focusing on human rights, democracy, gender equality and peace- building.

In 2002, the main KEGME activity was the preparation, organization and implementation of an International Capacity Building Seminar for women from conflict and post- conflict countries. The project was financed by UNFPA and carried out in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. The overall goal was to empower women, and enable them to play a key role in community rebuilding and development. Thirty three women from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Liberia, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Pakistan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tajikistan, and Sierra Leone participated in this Workshop and were provided with new skills and tools of communication, problem-solving and leadership. The outcome of the Project was a Training Module and Resource Kit which can be used for further training by the participants.

UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

1999

- Attended conferences such as 'The Mediterranean Universal Rights and Diverse Cultures' for the UN Declaration of Human Rights (February 25th-26th) where KEGME presented a paper on 'The role of NGOs in the Promotion of Women's Human Rights'.
- October-November: KEGME representatives participated in the 30th UNESCO General Conference entitled, 'Towards a Communication and Information Society for all', Paris, France.

2000

- April 20th, 1999: representatives of KEGME participated in the UN Congress on "The Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders', Vienna Austria.
- April 24th-May 5th: KEGME representatives attended the 58th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York.
- June 5-9, 1999: KEGME representatives attended the UN General Assembly 'Beijing+5' in New York, and organized a workshop for young women.
- September 6-7, 1999 KEGME representatives attended the Millennium Summit 'The role of the UN in the 21" Century', New York

2001

- April 2001: attended the Commission for Sustainable Development, New York.
- October 2001: participated in the International Conference 'Women's Contribution in Conflict Prevention and Transformation ', organized by the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France.

- November 2001: participated at the Expert's Meeting organized by UNFPA and presented a Paper on 'The role of civil society and NGOs in Rebuilding Conflict- Torn societies?' Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

2002

- August 2002, KEGME participated in the 'Summit on Sustainable Development', Johannesburg, South Africa.

4. National Council of Women of Thailand

(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

The National Council of Women of Thailand under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen (NCWT) was founded on September 9, 1956, and has been under the ROYAL PATRONGAGE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN SIRIKIT since May 5, 1961. In 1960, NCWT became an organizational member of the International Council of Women (ICW) In 1980, NCWT became a member of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO)

OBJECTIVE: A peaceful and stable nation must have as its foundation kind, considerate, and sympathetic citizens. These qualities should be instilled in everyone since childhood by their parents, who are the most significant people in setting examples on how to behave righteously as well as instilling and cultivating good morals in the mind of their children.

This is an extremely important task which I would like to entrust the National Council of Women of Thailand to share with all the Thai women. The key message to communicate is that everyone should bring up Thai children to be a good person with kindness toward their fellow man. If all the citizens are firmly established with good morals, it will bring forth peace, security, and ultimately a permanently stable nation.

MISSION: 1. To raise the status of all groups of women including children, adolescent, adult, elderly, as well as disadvantaged women; 2. To draft the National Women Council Act; 3. To find out the possible directions and means in raising the status and quality of lives of Thai women by removing or solving problems and obstacles against the development of women and women's organizations; 4. To cooperate and coordinate with a national and international agencies both governmental and non-governmental, in carry out activities that are beneficial to women and society in general; and 5. To study, collect information, research, and exchange ideas among women organizations both domestically and internationally, for the purpose of creating the stability, security, good understanding and well-being for all people, especially women.

NCWT'S AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:

1. **Improvement of Women's Status:** NCWT strives to make women's participation more accepted in society, by fighting against all typed of discrimination. NCWT encourages the improvement of women's status, and women's involvement in any social and business arenas, including in politics, both locally and nationally.

2. **Development of Family Institution:** NCWT promotes the development of the family institution within Thai society. It is necessary to promote the development of the family institution within Thai society. We strongly believe that the family is the foundation of society and directly relates to the development of women.

3. Promotion of Young Women's Education, Morals and Ethics: Young women need support and care during theirs childhood, to ensure that they grow up to be good citizens. A good education is the key to success; however, this must be combined with the teaching of Morals and ethics for young girl to become a productive member of society.

4. **Work in Accordance with the Government's Policy:** NCWT will work in accordance with the Government's long-term plan for the development of women, including assessing the role of new technology in the coming years. The NCWT will work to use the new information technology to promote and improve women's status, capacities, and the quality of lives.

5. **Cooperation with International Organization:** The NCWT will closely cooperate, particularly as an organizational member, with several international organizations, for instance, the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO), International Council of Women (ICW) and Consumers International (CI); the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and will cooperate, as an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This will present a wide distribution of good image and proper roles of Thai women to foreigners.

6. **Center of Organizational Members:** The NCWT is mainly emphasized to become a focal point of organizational members throughout the country, dealing with activities pertaining to the development if women in any areas in order for women to be able to achieve their own independence and self-reliance. To achieve this, NCWT should closely cooperates and coordinates with other organizational members nationwide in any areas, especially in providing financial assistance, so that women can utilize their own local resource and potential in order to increase their earnings and to present.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE UN AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES FOR THE PERIOD 2000-2003:

- Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Counselors Meeting during 19-22 June 2002 at Pichanuloke province.
- Conference "Convention to Elimination all forms of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW" on 15 November, 2000.
- 27th UNICEF Meeting on "World Youth" during 19-21 September, 2001 at United Nation Building Plaza, New York, United States of America.
- 21st World Food Day on 16 October, 2001 at UN-FAO Asia Pacific branch, BKK.
- Comprehensive report on "Comprehensive implementation, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" to The High Commissioner for Human Rights / United Nation for 57th –58th Human Rights General Assembly arrangement.
- Attended the "55th Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Meeting" during 28 July-15 August 2003 in Conference Room XVIII of the Palais des Nations, United Nations.
- "Conference on Sharing experiences of passage of Domestic Violence Bill with Cambodian Women Parliamentarians" on 13 February, 2003 at the Parliament Building.
- "Opening session of UNESCAP Committee on Emerging Social Issues" on 4 September 2003.
- "Women, Men and HIV/AIDs: Responding to the Challenge" on 3 September, 2003 at United Nation Conference Center.
- "23rd World Food Day" on 16 October, 2003 at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, BKK.
- "Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality" on 10 November 2003 at United Nation Building, BKK.

Additional Activities for the period 2000-2003:

- Danang Women's Association, Viet Nam during 26-29 May 2000.
- China-Tibet Women's Federation, China during 22-31 July 2000.
- Korean Democratic Women's Union, Democratic People's Republic of Korea during 24-29 September, 2000.
- Korean Democratic Women's Union, Democratic People's Republic of Korea during 17-21 June 2000.
- All-China Women's Federation, China during 23-32 October, 2002.
- Viet Nam Women's Union during 16-20 February 2003.

Meeting & Seminars

- ASEAN Regional Workshop to Recommended Set of Strategies to Address the Lack of Access by Women to opportunities for Employment and Skill Enhancement, during 15-17 August 2003, at Bander Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
- Consumer International World Congress during 13-17 November 2000 at Durban, South Africa.
- Membership: Empowerment of Young Women during 23-26 June 2004 at Malaysia.
- 20th Meeting of Asean sub-committee on Women during 25-25 October, Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- 10th ACWO General Assembly during 5-8 July, 2002 at Singapore.
- Saga Prefectural Coverment : Asian Women's Forum, Learn about Asian Picture Books during 11-13 October, 2003 at Saga, Japan.

5. International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples

(Special consultative status granted in 1989)

I - Introduction

The International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (LIDLIP) was established in 1976 as a continuation of the Russell Tribunal II. The primary objective of LIDLIP is to defend human rights. The organization cooperates with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on matters related to the defence and promotion of human rights when the objectives of such groups are compatible with its own.

LIDLIP has held NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1989. In this capacity, it has been in a position to engage in active diplomacy in the human rights bodies of the United Nations, where it has spoken, in particular, on behalf of peoples with no international forum in which to express their views. The League's main objective during the past four years has been to consolidate and deepen its support for its partner grass-roots organizations and to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations.

The present quadrennial report describes the activities through which LIDLIP pursues its goal of promoting and protecting the rights of peoples and human rights before United Nations bodies and demonstrates how it is complying with its consultative obligations under Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

II - ACTIVITIES

2001

At the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights (17 March-27 April), held at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, the League prepared and disseminated written statements. One statement (E/CN.4/2001/NGO/148) dealt with the garment and sportswear industries; two statements (E/CN.4/2001/NGO/147 and E/CN.4/2001/NGO/146) discussed obstacles to the right to development: control of natural resources by transnational corporations. LIDLIP made an oral presentation on depleted uranium that had been dumped in Iraq and Kosovo. It also made an oral presentation on impunity, noting that States lacked the will to combat such behaviour. The sale of one transnational corporation to another (including the inhabitants and their land, village and church) in Puerto Casado (Paraguay) was denounced. Under the agenda item on indigenous peoples, the League again did not hesitate to advocate right of such peoples to self-determination. LIDLIP submitted a written statement on the unresolved question of Western Sahara, and a joint oral presentation of NGOs discussed the arrest of two Moroccan Saharan citizens who wished to address the United Nations. Another presentation dealt with the conflict in Sri Lanka, and a joint NGO oral presentation discussed the difficult situation in Colombia.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (23-27 July)

Fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (30 July-17 August)

LIDLIP made a number of oral presentations. In one, linking the questions of globalization and transnational corporations, it called on the Sub-Commission to study the impact and consequences of globalization and of neoliberal policies and structural adjustment policies. The League also addressed the use of Vieques by the United States of America for military purposes, the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and the dramatic question of Palestine. Terrorism and human rights were discussed in the context of the struggle of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. In keeping with the priority LIDLIP has always attached to matters related to indigenous peoples, it provided its input on the study under preparation on indigenous peoples and their relationship to land. Reference also was made to the situations affecting the Maya in Mexico, the Shoshone in the United States of America and the Gwich'in in Alaska. A joint written statement by NGOs concerning Sri Lanka and the struggles of the Tamil people (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/NG0/25) also was circulated.

2002

At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (18 March-26 April), the League's contributions included a written statement (E/CN.4/2002/NGO/31) calling for recognition of the right of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, in particular of Chiapas, to political, economic and cultural self-determination. Another written statement (E/CN.4/2002/NGO/107) condemned the draft framework agreement the United Nations was seeking to impose on the parties involved (the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco) with respect to the political future of the Saharan people. A third written

statement (E/CN.4/2002/NGO/30) condemned the lack of freedom of expression experienced by Pontic Greeks still living in northern Turkey.

The League made a number of oral presentations, including one on anti-terrorism legislation under preparation in Colombia and human rights in that country. Presentations were also given on the right to self-determination of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the population of Puerto Casado in Paraguay. Violations of human rights in Palestine were the focus of a statement condemning abuses of the state of emergency by Israel in the occupied territories and the behaviour of the Israeli police towards the local population and the press. Economic, social and cultural rights were addressed in connection with the Puebla-Panama Plan, intended to promote economic ties between Mexico and a group of Central American countries. In an oral presentation concerning judicial independence and the administration of justice, the fight against terrorism and the impunity of crimes against human rights, LIDLIP underscored the fact that all forms of opposition, armed or otherwise, were being lumped together in the post-September 11 context.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, 22-26 July)

Fifty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva, 29 July-16 August)

With regard to states of emergency, LIDLIP condemned the ongoing imposition of states of emergency by the State of Israel since its creation in 1948. Turkey also held a record in that regard. As to discrimination in the criminal justice system, the League congratulated the Sub-Commission's expert regarding her excellent working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/5) and expressed its support for her work. With respect to indigenous peoples, LIDLIP drew attention to the situation of the Western Shoshone (Nevada). It also renewed its appeal to the Sub-Commission to take the initiative and review the definition of the right to self-determination which had given rise to a series of laws that essentially denied the existence of the world's indigenous peoples. With regard to terrorism and human rights, the League pointed out that under the pretext of fighting terrorism, many Governments imposed limitations on human rights in order to combat their opponents. In an oral presentation, LIDLIP condemned the ongoing serious violations of human rights being perpetrated in Western Sahara by Morocco, a situation that was impeding the holding of a referendum on decolonization in the territory. Other interventions discussed human rights violations and repression in Colombia, the negative impact of globalization and the question of transnational corporations.

Participation in the Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, eighth session, Geneva (2-13 December)

2003

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-ninth session, Geneva (17 March-25 April)

The League drew the attention at that session to the situation of the Kurds in Turkey. It made an oral presentation on terrorism, a matter of the utmost relevance, as was the war in Iraq, regarding which LIDLIP reaffirmed that any measures implemented to combat terrorism must be in strict compliance with international law and the international norms of human rights. LIDLIP sought once again to draw attention to the situation in Colombia as well as to the plight of the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

It also gave a presentation on the Palestinian question and another on the right of the Saharan people to self-determination viewed from the perspective of economic rights.

Participation in the Working Group on Minorities, ninth session, Geneva (12-16 May)

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-fifth session, Geneva (21 July-15 August)

LIDLIP made an oral presentation on the situation in Iraq and condemned the military attack that had come on the heels of more than a decade of sanctions. It also discussed the administration of justice, particularly in connection with some 700 detainees being held at Guantanamo. The same presentation addressed the disappearance of Saharan people in Morocco. On the question of terrorism and human rights, the League recalled that after 11 September 2001, States had latched on to antiterrorism rhetoric in order to implement measures that radically undermined the enjoyment of human rights. LIDLIP also expressed its support for the quest of indigenous peoples for their rights and condemned the negative impact of corruption.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (21-25 July)

2004

Participation in the Working Group on Minorities (1-5 March)

Commission on Human Rights, sixtieth session (15 March-23 April)

Considerable attention was devoted to the question of the Saharan people, beginning with a written statement (E/CN.4/2004/NGO/139) and followed by an oral presentation concerning the status of Saharan political prisoners and the disappearance of 108 persons whose cases, according to the report of the Working Group on Enforces or Involuntary Disappearances, were awaiting clarification (E/CN.4/2004/58). The League also drew attention to the plight of the Pontic Greek minority in northern Turkey and objected to the prevailing "politically correct" trend of advocating that movements fighting for the right to self-determination within their own countries should be considered terrorists. The Tamils of Sri Lanka were one example. LIDLIP also raised the issue of self-determination in connection with the peoples of Alaska and Hawaii. An oral presentation focused on cultural rights and the right to education in Turkey. The League again condemned the violence in Colombia and associated itself with the statement by the International Indian Treaty Council regarding the Western Shoshone (Nevada).

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, (19-23 July).

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-sixth session (26 July-13 August)

The League made an oral presentation on the absence of the rule of law in Sri Lanka and joined other NGOs in calling for respect for human rights in Iraq. LIDLIP also addressed the subjects of corruption, terrorism and transnational corporations.

Participation in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (8-26 November).

Participation in the Working Group on a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, tenth session (13-24 September and 29 November-3 December).

6. International Press Institute

(Special consultative status granted in 1993)

The International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, dedicated to protecting and furthering freedom of the press and improving the standards and practises of journalism. The main objectives of IPI are therefore: To protect freedom of opinion and expression; To further and safeguard freedom of the press; To ensure free access to news, regardless of national boundaries; To ensure the safety of journalists and their ability to report freely; To improve the practices of journalism; To increase understanding between peoples. Editors, leading journalists, and media executives from over 115 countries are integrated into this global network, which focuses on the protection of freedom of expression and opinion as a fundamental human right, as stated in Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of expression has been furthered by IPI through the organisation of events and the publication of reports, booklets and magazines, in particular through the annual IPI World Press Freedom Review. The 2003 report was published with sponsoring from UNESCO.

The following report focuses on IPI Activities in relation with United Nations principles, United Nations Bodies and Specialised Agencies

January 2001 – New Delhi, INDIA: **Klaus Schmitter**, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace Programme, UNESCO, addressed the participants at the IPI World Congress in New Delhi, at the session "Freedom of Expression in the IT Era". Keynote speakers at the congress were Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajapayee, Indian Minister of External Affairs, **Jaswant Singh**, and His Holiness, the **Dalai Lama**.

May 2001 – Beirut, LEBANON: Together with the Institute for Professional Journalists at the Lebanese American University, with support of UNESCO, IPI organised a seminar called "Freedom of Expression and the Media in Lebanon". Keynote speaker was Emile Lahoud, President of Lebanon.

May 2001 – Windhoek, NAMIBIA: IPI representatives took part at a seminar in Windhoek, organised by UNESCO on the 10th Anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration.

March 2002 – Beirut, LEBANON: IPI representatives participated in a round-table on "Professional Ethics, Media Legislation & Freedom of Expression in Lebanon". Organised by the Lebanese American University's Institute for Professional Journalists (IPJ), UNESCO and IPI.

April 2002 – Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN: IPI representatives attended and spoke at the first Eurasia Media Forum, organised by the Khabar Agency. **Henrikas** Yushkiavitshus, advisor to director general, UNESCO, and the IPI Director, spoke on the issue of "Eurasia - The Role Of The Media. Media Cultures - East-West Attitudes". Keynote speakers were President of Kazakhstan, **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mohammad Khatami**.

May 2002 – Ljubljana, SLOVENIA: **Jiri Dienstbier**, Ambassador-at-Large; former Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic; UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1998-2001), chaired a session on "Visions for the Balkans" at the IPI World Congress in Ljubljana. In addition to the President of the Parliament of Slovenia, **Borut Pahor**, the President of Montenegro, **Milo Djukanovic**, President of Croatia, **Stjepan Mesic**, and the member of the Presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Zivko Radisic**, spoke at the session. **Erhard Busek**, Special Coordinator, Stability Part for South Eastern Europe, Brussels, and **Wolfgang Petritsch**, High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, analysed the issue "What Went Wrong in the Balkans".

September 2002 – Dakar, SENEGAL: An IPI representative attended the 10th General Meeting of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), which brought together more than 90 free expression advocates from 52 countries to discuss freedom of expression issues, develop regional networking, and strategise on joint action campaigns.

November 2002 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: The Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organisations met in Vienna in conjunction with the Vienna Secretariat's tenth anniversary celebration. In addition to the President of Austria, **Thomas Klestil**, the President of the Austrian Parliament, **Heinz Fischer**, and the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, **Sergio Vieira de Mello**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, was the keynote speaker at a special evening event, while **Freimut Duve**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media spoke over luncheon to the members of the Coordinating Committee.

December 2002 – Paris, FRANCE: IPI representatives attended the meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee on Culture, Science and Education. Item 7 of the Agenda, "Freedom of Expression in the Media", was reserved for **(a)** an exchange of views between members of the Committee and representatives from IPI and Reporters sans Frontières and **(b)** consideration of a draft report on freedom of expression in the media in Europe.

April 2003 – Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN: IPI representatives attended and spoke at the second Eurasia Media Forum. IPI was asked to organise two panel sessions entitled "Journalists under Pressure", which gave a platform to prominent press freedom campaigners from Central Asia and the Caucasus to address the participants, and provided an opportunity for IPI ideas on media freedom to be expressed openly in local media. The Advisor to Director-General, Mr. **Henrikas Yushkiavitshus** delivered the welcome note from the Director-General of UNESCO **Koichiro Matsuura**. Again, the keynote speaker was President of Kazakhstan, **Nursultan Nazarbayev**.

April 2003 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: The IPI Director attended a conference on "The Media and the Information Society", organised by the Austrian Federal Chancellery as part of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

September 2003 – Salzburg, AUSTRIA: **Mogens Schmidt**, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO, Paris, spoke at the IPI World Congress in Salzburg, participating at the session "Pluralism, Democracy and the Clash of Civilisations". **Alain Modoux**, Senior Adviser to UNESCO for the WSIS, Geneva, spoke at the session on the World Summit on the Information Society. **Maria Cheng**, Spokesperson, Communicable Diseases Section, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva, addressed the participants on "SARS and the Media" and **Sir Peter**

Ustinov, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador , a volunteer for UNESCO, was a keynote speaker at the congress on the issue of the "Transatlantic Rift". Another keynote speaker was Austrian Chancellor **Wolfgang Schüssel**. **Yossi Beilin**, former Justice Minister and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, spoke at an interview session on the issue of "The Oslo Accords – 10 Years On".

September 2003 – Bucharest, ROMANIA: IPI and Romanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, organised an international conference on "How to Guarantee Independent Public Service Broadcasting". The conference sought to analyse - ten years after the 1993 IPI symposium "From State-Controlled Broadcasting to Public Broadcasting" and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Public Broadcasting. Representatives of public service broadcasters from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the European Commission and international NGOs, took part in the IPI conference. Keynote speakers included **Peter Schieder**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, **Ion Iliescu**, President of Romania, and the Prime Minister **Adrian Nastase**.

December 2003 – Geneva, SWITZERLAND: the IPI Director attended the biannual meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organisations, which was held in conjunction with the UN-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). **Shashi Tharoor**, United Nations Undersecretary General for Communications and Public Information, discussed with the Coordinating Committee various UN related issues of basic interest to the group.

December 2003 – Paris, FRANCE: The IPI Director during the seminar, "Israeli and Palestinian Media Professionals: Renewing the Dialogue", chaired the session "Independence of the Media and the Maintenance of Professional Standards." The meeting was organised by UNESCO in order to provide a platform for Palestinian and Israeli media professionals to discuss matters of common concern and explore venues for possible cooperation.

May 2004 – Warsaw, POLAND: In the presence of over 400 media representatives from 47 nations, at the session "Holding Member States of IGOs to their Press Freedom Commitments" **Santiago Canton**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States (OAS); **Miklos Haraszti**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; **Paschal Mooney**, General Rapporteur on the Media, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe; and **Henrikas Yushkiavitshus**, former Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics, UNESCO, were available for discussions with participants of this IPI World Congress. **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, President of Poland, and the Prime Minister **Marek Belka**, former President **Lech Walensa**, and former Prime Minister **Tadeusz Mazowiecki**, were among the keynote speakers, as well as **Milan Kucan**, former President of Slovenia, and **Bronislaw Geremek**, Politician and Historian; former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

December 2004 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: Round table "5 years of WHO/IPI Guidelines for Professional Health Correspondents", as originally adopted in 1999 during a meeting of the European Health Communication Network in Copenhagen (keynote speaker **Karsten Koch**, Danish Minister of Health).

Over the period covered by this report, IPI also undertook many more initiatives in defending and furthering press freedom, and freedom of expression, of which we would like to mention:

INSI: At the beginning of 2003, IPI, in cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) founded the International News Safety Institute (INSI), a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting practical actions and fostering good practice in the provision of safety training and assistance to journalists and media staff everywhere. INSI was then officially launched in Brussels on 3 May 2003, World Press Freedom Day. It was simultaneously launched at a meeting organised by UNESCO in Jamaica. Led and managed by media professionals, INSI is a coalition of media organisations (print, broadcasting, and news agencies), press freedom groups, journalists' unions and humanitarian campaigners working to create a culture of safety in media in all corners of the world.

CASCFEN: An initiative of the IPI Azerbaijan National Committee (IPI ANC), the Central Asian and Southern Caucasian Freedom of Expression Network (CASCFEN) was set up in Baku, Azerbaijan in March 2003 during a meeting attended by the IPI Director. CASCFEN currently includes eight journalists organizations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with the purpose of promoting freedom of expression and professional journalism in the region. Today, this information network is already integrated into the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), based in Toronto.

SEEMO: The South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), a specialised IPI network of editors, media executives and leading journalists from newspapers, magazines, radio, TV stations, news agencies and internet media, was founded in October 2000 in Zagreb, Croatia. It encompasses the region of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, and Romania. Its chief activities are the promotion of mutual understanding through dialogue meetings of media representatives from the various national, ethnic and religious groups. SEEMO publishes a magazine for the region "De Scripto", as well as a Media Handbook with media reports and contact addresses of leading media in each of these countries.

May 2002 – Ljubljana, SLOVENIA: Dialogue of 80 editors from South East Europe (SEE) – keynote speaker **Erhard Busek**, Special Coordinator, Stability Pact for South East Europe; **Klaus Schmitter**, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression, UNESCO; **Alain Modoux**, former UNESCO director, Freedom of Expression.

November 2002 – Skopje, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Dialogue of editors from the region of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

March 2003 – Podgorica, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO Dialogue of editors from Serbia and Montenegro.

May 2003 – Ohrid, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Dialogue of editors on conflict prevention in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

July 2003 – Belgrade, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: Dialogue of representatives from Roma media in SEE.

September 2003 – Salzburg, AUSTRIA: Dialogue of editors from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Vojvodina.

October 2003 – Opatja, CROATIA: Dialogue of editors from Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro.

November 2003 – Skopje, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Meeting of editors and directors of private news agencies in SEE.

May 2004 – Belgrade, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: Participation at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Conference.

May 2004 – Sofia, BULGARIA: Minority Media – Vlachian/Aromanian in SEE.

June 2004 – Neum, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: Media Dialogue of editors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, different ethnic groups.

October 2004 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: Press freedom round table with **Miklos Haraszti**, OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media.